

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7695

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT ADMINISTRATION

REF: STATE 012370

1. ECMIN INFORMED GATT DG LONG U.S. VIEWS CONCERNING EXTENSION OF GATT DEPUTY DG MATHUR'S APPOINTMENT FOR FURTHER FIVE YEARS. WE POINTED OUT USG CONSIDERED MATHUR DOING GOOD JOB BUT THAT WE FELT A DEPUTY DG SHOULD NOT HAVE APPOINTMENT GOING WELL BEYOND EXPECTED TOUR OF OFFICE OF DG HIMSELF. LONG RESPONDED SOMEWHAT CAUSTICALLY THAT HE REALIZED U.S. APPROACH WAS THAT WHEN TOP MAN WENT ALL OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS DOWN TO BRANCH CHIEF SHOULD ALSO DISAPPEAR SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE, HOWEVER, SAW MERIT IN CONTINUITY AND IN HAVING EXPERIENCED TOP OFFICIALS ON BOARD WHO COULD HELP ENSURE SMOOTH TRANSFER FROM ONE DG TO ANOTHER.

WE RESPONDED THAT U.S. RECOGNIZED SOME OVERLAP USEFUL BUT ARGUED THAT CONTRACT INVOLVING AN OVERLAP AS LONG AS THREE YEARS NOT DESIRABLE. LONG MADE ADDITIONAL POINT THAT BY HAVING MATHUR IN DEPUTY DG JOB UP
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TO 1981 REDUCES CHANCES THAT LDCS WILL ASK FOR

TOP JOB WHEN LONG LEAVES. WE THINK THIS ARGUMENT HAS CONSIDERABLE FORCE. CHAIRMANSHIP OF CPS IS NOW ROTATED ANNUALLY BETWEEN DCS AND LDCS, AS IS COUNCIL CHAIRMANSHIP. IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF AFTER LONG'S DEPARTURE THAT AT LEAST SOME LDCS ARGUE THAT AFTER 30 YEARS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY LEADERSHIP IN GATT SECRETARIAT, IT NOW TIME FOR THERE TO BE AN LDC DG. THIS WOULD ALSO TIE IN WITH DESIRE OF SOME LDCS TO BRING GATT MORE INTO UN FRAMEWORK AND PERHAPS SUBORDINATE IT TO UNCTAD.

2. WE POINTED OUT THAT LONG'S INTENTION TO EXTEND MATHUR FOR FIVE YEARS WHILE HAVING THE OTHER DEPUTY DG JOB (NOW HELD BY PATTERSON) TO LOWER RANK AFTER MTN WOULD REDUCE POSSIBILITIES FOR U.S. NATIONAL TO SERVE AT HIGHEST RANKS OF GATT SECRETARIAT. LONG RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD EXPECT U.S. NATIONAL TO CONTINUE IN HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE JOB AS HEAD OF TRADE DEPARTMENT. WE NOTED THIS WOULD, NEVERTHELESS, BE LOWER LEVEN THAN POSITION TRADITIONALLY OCCUPIED BY U.S. NATIONAL IN RECENT YEARS. (DEPUTY DG PATTERSON WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT THIS DISCUSSION.)

3. CONCERNING MATHUR'S PERSONAL PREFERENCE, LONG FELT THAT HE WOULD PREFER THREE-YEAR SECONDMENT FROM INDIAN GOVERNMENT, RATHER THAN BEING FORCED TO SEVER TIES WITH GOI AND HAVING FIVE-YEAR APPOINTMENT FOR PRESENT GATT JOB.

4. LONG INDICATED HE WOULD PROBABLY BE IN WASHINGTON IN EARLY FEB AND WOULD BE PREPARED DISCUSS THIS FURTHER WITH U.S. OFFICIALS. HE ASKED WHO WAS DEALING WITH MATTER. WE RESPONDED WE NOT CERTAIN BUT SUGGESTED THAT YEUTTER AND GLITMAN WOULD BE APPROPRIATE INTERLOCUTORS. (WE WILL SEND SEPTEL AFTER LONG CONFIRMS DATES POSSIBLE WASHINGTON VISIT AND WHO HE WISHES TO SEE.)

5. IN VIEW LIKELIHOOD MATTER WILL SOON BE DISCUSSED FURTHER IN WASHINGTON, WE WILL NOT CONTACT INDIAN MISSION AT THIS TIME UNLESS SO INSTRUCTED.
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IN ANY CASE, AMBASSADOR CHADHA WITH WHOM WE WOULD NORMALLY TAKE UP MATTER IS IN MANILA FOR LDC UNCTAD IV MEETING AND WE WOULD HAVE HESITANCY ABOUT DEALING WITH LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS ON THIS SOMEWHAT DELICATE SUBJECT. IF WASHINGTON WANTS IMMEDIATE APPROACH TO INDIANS, SUGGEST IT BE DONE IN NEW DELHI.
DALE

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